THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC WEEKLY.
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The Postage Stamps of Canada.

The difficulties of international communication in British North America about fifty years ago can hardly be realized now by the person who has become accustomed to the use of the telephone, the telegraph, the railway, and our admirable postal system. Then the most expeditious method of sending messages or traveling was by steamboat or stage coach in summer, and by sleighs in winter. In 1853 it took ten and a half days for a letter to go from Quebec to Detroit; in 1857, after the completion of the Grand Trunk Railway, it took but 49 hours.

The postal accomodation was poor and the rates of postage were excessive. Just previous to 1850 the rate on a single letter (without an envelope), not exceeding one-half ounce in weight, was 4½d. currency for 60 miles and under; 6d. for 60 to 100 miles, and it increased in about this proportion. The cost of sending a letter from Montreal to Toronto was 1s. 1½d Between the Provinces and the United Kingdom the uniform charge was 1s. 2d. sterling or 1s. 4d. currency per ½ ounce. For newspapers ½d. was the lowest rate. Notwithstanding the high rates charged, the revenue of the Post Office Department was comparatively small, because few letters were written, and payment of postage was avoided by the sending of letters with friends traveling to the place to which the letters were addressed. The carrying of letters by private persons was punishable by a fine, but, nevertheless, it was extensively practised until the rates were lessened.

In February, 1837, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Rowland Hill published his famous pamphlet, "Post Office Reform." In it sweeping changes in the management of the Post Office Department of the United Kingdom were first publicly advocated. The most important recomendations were, a uniform rate of postage (prepaid) of one penny within the United Kingdom, for letters not exceeding ½ ounce in weight; and that "stamped covers and sheets of paper be supplied to the public from the stamp office or post office at such a price as to include the postage." The general use of adhesive stamps does not appear to have formed part of the original scheme, but was a suggestion to obviate the difficulty that might arise from the use of the unstamped paper. Stamped envelopes and adhesive stamps had been in use locally in the United Kingdom and the Continent many years before 1837, but for national use stamped covers date from May 1, 1840, when they were first used by the post offices of the United Kingdom. These stamped covers, known as the "Mulready envelope," were, in a few days, rejected by the public, and adhesive stamps almost wholly used.

(to be continued.)

We were shown an interesting thing the other day in the shape of a soldiers letter from Santiago de Cuba. The envelope was made from two sheets of paper sown together, and on the face was the address and signature of the officer in charge of the camp, the post mark "Santiago de Cuba," and a two cent postage due stamp. Such curiosities as this add a source of great interest to any collection.

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Address all communications

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2 Yorkville Ave. Toronto, Canada.

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Notes and Comments.

We wish it distinctly understood that this paper has no connection whatever with any other publication. All communications intended for this paper should be addressed to the office of publication. This is the "Canadian Philatelic Weekly" granted second class rates by the Post Office Department at Ottawa.

We have laid over "Philately as it should be" till some future date, and in this issue give the first instalment of a lengthy article on "The Postage Stamps of Canada." This is considered the best article on Canadian and B.N.A. postage stamps ever published. It is from the pen of A. C. Casselman and originally appeared in the Canadian Magazine. We will include an illustrated catalogue of Canada and B.N.A. postage stamps and can safely say that this combination of history and catalogue will make the most interesting and valuable article on these stamps ever presented to the philatelic public. Send in your subscription at once and secure this article complete.

If you do not receive a copy of our next number do not conclude that we have ceased publication. Only subscribers will receive this paper regularly.

The Philatelic World In a Week.

A sheet of half cent Canadian Jubilees sold at face in Toronto last week.

A special meeting of the Dominion Philatelic Association Officers will be held on Thursday next Nov. 24th in the Philatelic Club of Toronto rooms, 29 Forum Building, to consider a number of important matters.

The Philatelic Club of Toronto held its regular meeting in Room 29 Forum Building on Tuesday Nov. 15th. Ten members were present. The constitution which had been laid over for some time was again brought up for consideration and after a lively discussion and much changing it was finally adopted. Three new members were admitted and a new Executive Committee elected;—W. D. Waste, E. Davenport and F. A. Brereton. A meeting of the Executive was held at the home of Mr. W. D. Waste on Friday evening Nov. 18th, when several inportant recommendations were considered. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday Nov. 22nd.

We are able this week to present reliable information concerning a number of important changes in the Postal Service of Canada.

Penny postage to Great Britain and colonies will take effect on Christmas Day, and to commemorate this it has been decided to issue a special postage stamp of the denomination of two cents. The design has not been fully decided upon but several sketches are under consideration. It is understood that the stamp will be in use for a limited period only. The reduced rates will apply on letters passing between Canada and Great Britain and Ireland, British India. Newfoundland and the following African protectorates:—British East Africa—Uganda, Zanzibar, British Central Africa—the Niger Coast protectorate and the Niger Co's territory, the rate being two cents per half ounce, instead of five cents as heretofore. It is hoped that other portions of the Empire will have completed arrangements for adopting this reduced rate at the same time or shortly thereafter. Due notice will be given to postmasters and the public from time to time as to the countries or colonies to which the reduced rate will apply.

A four cent stamp will come into use at the same time to accommodate double-weight letters and it is rumoured that we will have a new universal post card.

The rate of postage on letters within Canada will be reduced to two cents, the section enacting such coming into effect by proclamation of the Governor-General. It is stated on good authority that this change will be made at the same time that Imperial Penny Postage comes into effect. These changes will necessitate a number of other changes now under consideration at Ottawa. A new two cent stamp will likely be issued and a change made in the three cent. The rate on drop letters will be reduced to one cent and it is said that a new letter card will be issued. A change in our present post card is also spoken of. The rate to the United States will remain at three cents per ounce.

On and after January 1st 1899 and until June 30th 1899, ¼ cent per pound will be taxed on all newspapers circulated outside a radius of 20 miles from the place of publication, and on June 30th the rate will be raised to ½ cent per pound. All publishers have recently been notified to that effect.

Other important changes in the regulations of the Dopartment authorized by the Postal Union convention held in Washington in June 1897 come into effect with the New Year as also those included in the "Act to amend the Postal Act," passed June 1898 by the Dominion Government.

The new one cent black reply card has appeared at the Hamilton Post Office.

Plate number 3 of the Numeral Issue has appeared in the 1 cent green.

AN OFFER.

In order to give any doubting advertisers the privilege of testing the Canadian Philatelic Weekly as an advertising medium, at a small expense we have discounted our regular rates and will offer an inch adv. for 30c or over two inches at 25c per inch. This extraordinary offer will remain open for a very short time only and will be withdrawn on one week's notice. As the demand for space is sure to be large at this low figure do not delay engaging space at once. We will insert an inch adv. twice for 50c a two inch twice for 90c or a three inch for $1.25 Have copy in by Wednesday preceding date of issue.

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